

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /158 W

----- 055555

R 041147Z FEB 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0082

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, LY

SUBJ: SUBJECT: ALGERIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD TUNISIAN-LIBYAN
MERGER

REF: (A) TUNIS 0623 (B) ALGIERS 0092 (C) ALGIERS 0002

1. FOLLOWING THEIR INITIAL ANGRY REACTION (REF B),
ALGERIA'S LEADERS ARE NOW MUCH MORE RELAXED ABOUT PRO-
POSED MERGER. THEIR IMMEDIATE GOAL OF HEADING OFF
INSTANT UNION HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AND PRESS NOW SHOWS
LITTLE INTEREST IN MATTER. VISIT OF TUNISIAN FONMIN
CHATTI JANUARY 28 WAS TREATED ROUTINELY.

2. WE AGREE WITH TUNIS 0623 INFOFAR AS IT SUGGESTS THAT
ALGERIA WILL PAY MORE ATTENTION THAN BEFORE TO WHAT IS
HAPPENING IN TUNISIA. TUNISIANS HAD AT TIMES IN THE
PAST BEEN ABLE TO ACCUSE ALGERIA OF NEGLECTING ITS
NEIGHBORS IN FAVOR OF MORE GRANDIOSE AMBITIONS. TO
THIS EXTENT, PERHAPS TUNISIA HAS GAINED SOMETHING FROM
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THE THREATENED UNION. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WILL

BE ANY CONCERTED CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE ALGERIAN INFLUENCE
IN TUNISIA ITSELF.
EAGLETON

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NNN

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